

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH, EDITOR.

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THE PACIFIC CLUB DECISION.

The Pacific Club has for several years past been selling liquor to its members without paying for a liquor license. The club is a bona fide social club, the liquor selling being simply an incidental feature, without profit to anyone, other than a nominal one to pay expenses.

Whether or not this was an infringement of the liquor license law was a doubtful question, but as there was no abuse of the privilege, no one raised the question, and, but for an unexpected development, the probability is that it would not have been raised at all.

Someone with a banking to sell liquor without a license conceived the idea of patterning after the Pacific Club, to the extent of forming a club, to whose members liquor could be sold.

No sooner said than done, a full-fledged "club" was formed among the aristocrats of Kakaako and Magoonville, with palatial quarters in a lean-to on a back alley, and every Saturday night the beer frothed, swipes sizzled and joy was unconfined. On Sundays also, joy with its liquid refreshment accompaniments, cut a still wider swath, for was not the club the social home of its members, and is not a man's home his castle, and cannot a man do any old thing in his castle, on Sunday or any other day?

The plan worked so well that in the course of a few weeks the club-promoting industry had a boom and all slumdom became club members in good and regular standing, each with a constitution and by-laws, and a generous backer, who furnished free quarters and kindly undertook to furnish booze to the members without salary.

At about this time the police and the regular retail sellers awoke to the fact that a large percentage of the retail liquor business of the city was being handled by the "clubs," whose chief social function was to guzzle cheap liquor. As no license had to be paid, this was actually sold cheaper than in the saloons.

To each charge of illicit selling the reply was made that the seller was the manager of a regularly organized club, "all same Pacific Club."

This brought matters to a focus and forced an answer to a question which would not otherwise have been raised.

An agreed statement of facts was therefore prepared and submitted to Judge Whitney, requesting his decision as to whether the Pacific Club had the right, without a retail license, to sell liquor to its members.

Judge Whitney has decided that it does not have such right. The decision is logical and supported by precedent.

It is difficult to see how, under the statute, any other decision could have been rendered.

A club is either selling or it is not selling. If it is selling, it makes no difference whether the sale is to ten, fifty or one hundred and fifty selected men or to the great unwashed.

What constitutes the gist of the offense of selling liquor without a license is the selling; not whom the sale is to.

The sale of a \$4 quart of champagne to Governor Carter, by the Pacific Club, is the same in logic and in the eye of the law, as the sale of five cents worth of molasses swipes to Jack, the bum-boat man, by the Royal Kakaako Hula Club.

If the Pacific Club can sell champagne to its members, without a license, the Hula Club can sell swipes to its members on the same basis.

One of three things must happen, viz.:

1. Judge Whitney's decision must stand; or

2. The law requiring licenses for the sale of liquor will be utterly nullified; or

3. There must be a complete readjustment of the liquor laws of the Territory.

Which shall it be?

THE RETIRING POSTMASTER.

Joseph Mortimer Oat, the retiring postmaster of Honolulu, has filled one of the most responsible public positions in Honolulu for nearly twelve years with credit to himself and honor to this community, where the best part of his life has been spent. While he was postmaster-general of the Hawaiian Islands, for several years before the United States took over the insular system, he made great improvements in the service and kept the system thoroughly well up to its constantly increasing business. Mr. Oat's own integrity and steadfastness imbued every branch of the Hawaiian postal establishment, so that not a scintilla of scandal ever marred its reputation throughout its incumbency. Before its abolition with the advent of the Federal regime, a postal savings bank with a large business added to the chief's responsibility. Mr. Oat was always a thorough-going American, keeping in touch with public affairs, both

SECRET COMMISSIONS AND THINGS.

The Advertiser's scoop in securing and publishing the Pinkham Commission Report before it is signed by the Commissioners themselves, is illustrative of the fact that the hole-in-a-corner method of conducting public business is passing in Hawaii, as it passed years ago in other portions of the United States.

Secrecy is the handmaiden of despotism, the right arm of monarchy.

The old monarchical theory of government was that the King spoke—the people heard. The King ordered—the people obeyed. The King took his own sweet time to act—the people waited until the King was ready. The King never told what he was going to do—the people found out when he acted.

The people no longer confine their functions to listening and waiting and obeying. In theory they themselves do the thinking, the ordering and the acting. The theory is still, however, more honored in the breach than in the observance, in Hawaii.

A habit of mind, impressed upon the community during the good old days when Kitchen cabinets ruled the destinies of Hawaii through the royal boathouse and midnight sessions in the bungalow, has survived through the eleven years since the monarchy committed suicide, and to a great extent dominates both our political and mercantile powers that be.

For example—the Chamber of Commerce passes a resolution or makes a report upon some matter vital to the whole community. A meek reporter of the local press humbly asks the officials what the report is about—what is recommended or what condemned? Does he get the information?

Kingdoms may fall; cities be overwhelmed by lava flows; Russia go down in blood and humiliation before Japan's victorious hordes, but wild horses, thumb-screws and the whole paraphernalia of ancient torture will not drag that innocent secret from the afore-said officials. The Secretary gasps; the President frowns as though lese majesty had been committed and each and every official in turn puts the seal of censure upon the impudent proposition to let the local public—the only ones who care a snap about the matter—know what has been done or what is proposed to be done.

The front door is locked, the back door barricaded, the secretary pulls down the blinds, gets under the table, seals up the resolution in a bullet-proof envelope, addresses it to some high muck-a-muck in Washington, and, under the protection of a guard armed to the teeth, stealthily deposits it in the registered mail when no one is looking.

The latest manifestation of this relic of absolutism is the so-called "Pinkham Commission." It is fatherless, although it surreptitiously intimates that Governor Carter could name the guilty man, if it was his secret-divulging day.

It has no sponsor, although it assumes the functions, powers and omnipotence of a royal commission and a congressional investigation rolled into one.

It has neither office nor visible means of support, yet it tours the Territory like an East Indian Nabob making a royal progress; corners the shorthand reporter market; lives at the best hotels and issues summonses broadcast to the highest and to the humblest to divulge what they know or don't know.

What is it all for? Who pays for it? Is it for public or private objects? If it is for public purposes, what are they? Above all things, why the secrecy? Why are only selected individuals interviewed? If only the truth is sought, why not inform the public what the subject of investigation is, and give those who have not been furnished with the countersign the opportunity to be heard?

The Blount Report was as big as a family bible and covered more subjects than a bargain subscription encyclopedia. It contained exparte signed statements by the score. It bristled with theories, maps and photographs; but it was utterly discredited, and repudiated, and fell flat, because it was conducted in secret, for a one-sided purpose, and showed upon its face that it was the work of an interested advocate seeking to establish a theory, and not that of a disinterested judge seeking the truth.

Up to the present time the Pinkham Commission is in worse position than was Blount. He at least held the open, though illegal, commission of "Paramount Commissioner," signed by President Cleveland.

The Pinkham outfit is simply a wandering waif, a breeder of suspicion, a destroyer of its own objects by its objectionable and wholly unnecessary secrecy and hole-in-the-corner methods. Now that the soothsayers have struck a snag; that their unanimous decision proposition has missed fire and that their secret report is public property, is it not about time for the curtain to ring up or ring down on the farce?

Publicity never hurts a worthy cause or a legitimate object. Public hearings, investigation and discussion of public affairs form the American method. Is it not about time for Hawaii to get into line and adopt like methods?

before and since annexation, but without offensively obtruding his opinions upon other people. He took office as a supporter of the Provisional Government, with its policy of the union of Hawaii to the United States, and never pleaded immunity of position when the rank and file supporting the cause were called upon, as emergencies arose, to stand in "the imminent deadly breach" for the defense or protection of that policy. If ever a retiring public official merited a testimonial from the community for services well and faithfully rendered, certainly Postmaster Oat does.

Solid for Young.

January 7, 1905.

Editor Advertiser: The undersigned, after perusing all we have seen in the Advertiser, Bulletin and Star newspapers concerning comment and criticism about purchasing the Young Hotel, to be the City Hall of the Territory of Hawaii, by the bankers and business men, tradesmen, labor men, we, the mechanics at the Honolulu Iron Works stand firm men with Mr. Young.

Wishing him all health, wealth and prosperity.
Signed in behalf of the mechanics of H. I. Works,
W. C. ROE.



Balloon Lantern Fish

Just the thing for fish dinner. Cat-eyes and assorted heads.

Hawaii and South Seas Curio Co.
Alexander Young Bldg.

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It is commonly inherited. Few are entirely free from it. Pale, weak, puny children are afflicted with it in nine cases out of ten, and many adults suffer from it. Common indications are lumps in the neck, abscesses, cutaneous eruptions, inflamed eyelids, sore ears, rickets, catarrh, wasting, and general debility.

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Eradicate it, positively and absolutely. This statement is based on the thousands of permanent cures these medicines have wrought.

"My daughter had scrofula, with eleven sores on her neck and about her ears. Hood's Sarsaparilla was highly recommended and she took it and was cured. She is now in good health." Mrs. J. H. Jones, Parker City, Ind.

Hood's Sarsaparilla promises to cure and keeps the promise.

ATTENTION!

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Chinese Incense
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Panama Violet
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These are a few of the latest in the Perfumery line; in the neatest of packages. We claim these goods the most exquisite ever shown in this city, and most appropriate holiday gifts. Ask to be shown these and convince yourself.

Hollister Drug Co
FORT STREET.

REDUCED

Our entire stock of high-grade dress suit cases and valises have been reduced 33-1-3 per cent. In order to make room for less bulky goods we are closing out this entire line.

This is your opportunity; grasp it.

H. F. WICHMAN & CO., LTD.
Fort Street.

Start the New Year Right

Open a savings account with us; we pay

4½ per cent

per annum, withdrawable on demand.

Phoenix Savings, Building and Loan Association.

Judd Building, Honolulu

Guarantee Capital, \$200,000.00.

Paid in Capital, \$1,300,000.00.

HENRY E. POCKOCK,

Cashier.

Good Money-Making Investments

The best and cheapest lots, ready for building, at Kaimuki, on the most liberal terms, without interest. Two fine lots on Kawaiahao street (Kewalo), \$650; only a little cash required.

Several good bargains in Nuuanu tract, the healthiest and coolest place about the city.

Have also for rent some nice, cosy cottages within walking distance from the postoffice.

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Pacific Hardware Co., Ltd.

Just Received

GRADE B. WILLCOX & GIBBS AUTOMATIC SEWING MACHINES.

A special machine, with all the latest improvements at a special price.

PICTURES,

Picture frames and mouldings.

ARTISTS MATERIALS.

Pyrography outfits, and blanks.

FINE CUT GLASS.

Bric-a-Brac statuettes, Majolica, China, Bohemian glass.

GARLAND STOVES AND RANGES.

"The World's Best."

New Goods Constantly Arriving.

Light easily turned on,
Clean light:
Quick light,
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Electric Lights

give a cheery comfort to the home and are the acme of convenience for the entire household.

Hawaiian Electric Co.,
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TELEPHONE MAIN 390.



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CORNER MERCHANT AND FORT STREETS.

FINE GENUINE STAG HANDLED CARVERS.

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THEO. H. DAVIES & CO., LTD.

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FINE TEAMS AND CARRIAGES for hire at all hours.

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Will make special rates for hauling by the ton. Also have fire wood for sale. Orders received by Phone 343 promptly attend to.

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LADIES' UNDERWEAR. Dresses made to order. Sewing guaranteed. If the stitches break I will repair without extra charge.